

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SB 616 – HB 921

March 2, 2019

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Requires the Department of Children's Service's (DCS) to maintain staffing levels of case managers so that each region has enough case managers to allow caseloads to be at not more than 20 active cases relating to initial assessments or 20 children monitored and supervised in active cases relating to ongoing services. Requires DCS to maintain staffing levels of foster care case managers so that each region has enough case managers to allow caseloads to be at not more than 10 active cases relating to initial assessments, including investigations of an allegation of child abuse or neglect. Requires DCS to comply with the maximum caseload ratios.

CORRECTED FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Increase State Expenditures – \$26,804,800

Increase Federal Expenditures – \$21,421,600

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (004832): Deletes all language after the enacting clause. Requires the Department of Children's Service's (DCS) to maintain staffing levels of case managers so that each region has enough case managers to allow caseloads to be at not more than 20 active cases relating to initial assessments including investigations of an allegation of child abuse or neglect, or 20 children monitored and supervised in active cases relating to ongoing services.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Increase State Expenditures – \$1,146,200

Increase Federal Expenditures – \$916,000

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Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-5-132(a)(1)-(2), the DCS is required to maintain staffing levels of case managers so that each region has enough case managers to allow caseloads not to exceed an average of 20 active cases relating to initial assessments, including investigations of an allegation of child abuse or neglect, or 20 children monitored and supervised in active cases relating to ongoing services.
- The proposed legislation would require DCS to maintain staffing levels so that caseloads do not exceed, as opposed to not exceeding an average of, 20 active cases relating to initial assessments including investigations of an allegation of child abuse or neglect or children monitored and supervised in active cases relating to ongoing services.
- There are currently 747 Child Protective Services (CPS) case managers handling an estimated 13,048 active CPS cases. Each CPS case manager currently has an average caseload of 17 (13,048 / 747) and would not be impacted by the proposed legislation.
- There are currently 699 regular case managers handling an estimated 13,988 ongoing cases. Each case manager currently has an average case load slightly above 20 (13,988 / 699).
- A case manager with a current caseload of less than 20 can take on additional cases to help even out the caseload ratios within their region. However, to the extent a case manager in a rural region has a caseload of more than 20 cases; it would not be feasible for a current case manager from a different region to take on those additional cases. To ensure the required coverage across all 12 regions, the DCS would require additional case manager positions.
- In order for the caseload of each regular case manager to not exceed 20 cases, the DCS will require at least two additional case managers in each of the 12 regions, for 24 additional case managers.
- Based on information provided by the DCS, one team leader is required for every five case managers. Additionally, one team coordinator is required for every four team leaders
- The total minimum additional positions DCS will require as a result of this legislation is 24 case managers (2 x 12 regions), 5 team leaders [(24 new case managers) / 5 case managers per team leader], and 2 team coordinators [(5 new team leaders) / 4 team leaders per team coordinator].
- The increase in expenditures associated with the additional positions is estimated to exceed \$2,062,143 (\$1,195,200 salaries + \$401,943 benefits + \$465,000 other costs).
- The increase in expenditures exceeding \$2,062,143 for each year will consist of \$1,146,165 in state funding and \$915,978 in federal funding, as follows:
 - \$824,857 in DCS state funds (\$2,062,143 x 40.0%).
 - \$321,308 in TennCare state funds [(\$2,062,143 x 45.0%) x 34.625%].
 - \$606,657 in TennCare federal funds [(\$2,062,143 x 45.0%) x 65.375%].
 - \$309,322 in Title IV-E federal funds (\$2,062,143 x 15.0%).
- The total recurring increase in state expenditures to the General Fund is estimated to exceed \$1,146,165 (\$824,857 + \$321,308).
- The total recurring increase in federal expenditures is estimated to exceed \$915,978 (\$606,657 + \$309,322).

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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